

The sovereignty of States over the sea extended originally to a stone's throw from the coast; later to an arrow's shot; firearms were then invented, and by rapid progress we have arrived at the far-shooting of the cannon of the present age. But we still preserve the principle: *Terræ dominium finitur, ubi finitur armorum vis.*

But while the United States have sought to hold Great Britain bound by the six mile sea-mouth in Treaty and other disputes, they have claimed and exercised the rights of sovereignty over bays and inlets around their coast of much wider sea-months. In 1793 they claimed that Delaware Bay, having a sea-mouth of 10.5 miles from headland to headland, widening to 25 miles inland, was part of the maritime territory of the United States; and that the capture of a British ship by a French frigate "within its capes before she had reached the sea," was a violation of the territory and sovereignty of the United States. From 1789, Congress has assumed that Chesapeake Bay, having a sea-mouth of 12.7 miles from headland to headland, and extending inland about 200 miles, was part of the territory, and within the acknowledged jurisdiction, of the United States.

Senator Seward during a debate in the Senate in 1852 declared that the contention of the United States that only bays six miles wide, or less, at the mouth, could be considered as territorial waters, proved too much, for it would divest the United States of Boston Harbour, Long Island Sound, Delaware Bay, Chesapeake Bay, Albemarle Sound, and others.

This six miles width, however, has been varied in some cases by Treaties, which make the sea-mouth ten nautical miles, such as the Anglo-French Treaty of 1839, the Anglo-German Treaty of 1866, and the unratified Anglo-American Treaty of 1888. In the Netherlands Manual of International Law it is said:—

The littoral sea, or territorial water, is reckoned to begin from a straight line drawn between the headlands, shoals or islands, which form the mouth, or entrance, of the closed bay or river, and between which the breadth is not more than ten sea miles.

These authorities shew that landward of the coast-line of the ocean, though indented by, and inclusive of, rivers, inlets, or arms of the sea, of the mouth width of six miles, is the territory of the nation which is sovereign of the coast, to the defined inland limit of its dominium eminens. It must therefore be conceded that, as inlets and land are the same in International Law as to sovereignty, the Alaska boundary line must cross each at the ten marine league distance from the coast-line of the Pacific Ocean.